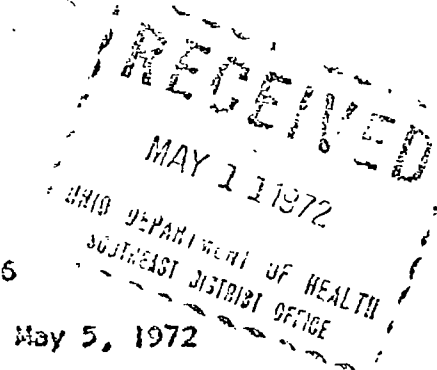


Phenol-.3  
SS-30  
BOD-30  
NH<sub>3</sub>

Re: Marietta  
Sewerage

Ohio District Office  
21929 Lorain Road  
Fairview Park, O. 44126



Honorable James F. Schweikert  
Mayor of Marietta  
Marietta City Building  
301 Putnam Street  
Marietta, Ohio 45750

Dear Mayor Schweikert:

We have recently been reviewing the status of your city's treatment of wastewater from the American Cyanamid Company plant in Marietta. As found in our inspection of your sewage treatment plant on Nov. 23, 1971 and as noted in data we have received since that time, we are concerned primarily in three areas:

1. High concentrations of ammonia are discharged from the Marietta Sewage Treatment Plant to the Ohio River. Most of the ammonia is attributed to the American Cyanamid effluent. American Cyanamid uses anhydrous ammonia for pH adjustment prior to entry to the sewers. Data supplied by your Superintendent of Utilities, Mr. John Kinder, at our request, indicate that the concentration of ammonia in the sewage plant effluent on January 10, 1972 was 141 mg/l. The concentration of ammonia on that same date in the American Cyanamid effluent to the sewers was 720 mg/l, while the concentration in the sewer above American Cyanamid was only 16 mg/l.

The 141 mg/l appears to be indicative of the sewage plant effluent since American Cyanamid entered the sewerage system in May 1971. This concentration is extremely toxic to aquatic life and is in violation of the last of the "Four Freedoms" which appears in the federally approved water quality standards for the Ohio River and which states that the river shall be free from toxic substances attributable to municipal, industrial, or other discharges.

2. The sewage plant has been consistently unable to retain a chlorine residual in the effluent due to the high ammonia concentration. This raises the possibility that the sewage plant effluent may not be adequately disinfected as required by the federally approved water quality standards for the Ohio River.
3. A significant decrease has been noted in the amount of removal of organic material (BOD) at the sewage plant. The average BOD removal for the sewage plant in 1970 as reported to the Ohio

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Hon. James F. Schwoikert

Department of Health was 47%. The average BOD removal as reported to the Ohio Department of Health for 1971 through May was 43%, and for 1971 after May (and after the entry of American Cyanamid to the sewers) was only 26%. This low percent removal not only indicates that the American Cyanamid wastes are being inadequately treated but that the degree of treatment previously afforded the City of Marietta wastewaters has been decreased.

In view of these problems, we feel that immediate action must be taken to correct them. We request that you require adequate pretreatment of the American Cyanamid wastewaters prior to entry to the Marietta Sewerage System. Please reply by May 26, 1972 with your plans for requiring adequate pretreatment to eliminate the problems discussed above.

Sincerely yours,

William L. West  
Director

cc: James O. McDonald, Region V  
Earl Richards, ODH, Columbus  
✓ Robert Cottrill, ODH, SEDS

JSpaulding:arw

